

Cheyenne Metropolitan Planning Organization

Policy Committee Meeting

September 24, 2019

Mayor's Conference Room, 2101 O'Neil Ave.

3:00pm



Attendance:

Voting Members:

Amber Ash
Marian Orr, Chair
Tim Morton for T. DeHoff

Laramie Co. Commissioner
City of Cheyenne, Mayor
WYDOT, Engineer

Non-Voting Members:

Wes Bay
Charles Bloom
Dave Bumann
Anissa Gerard
Martin Kidner
Juli Monahan
Vicki Nemecek
Walt Satterfield

Acting City Engineer
City Planning Director
County Public Works
City Traffic Engineer
WYDOT Planning
WYDOT Planning
City Public Works
FHWA

Staff:

Tom Mason
Tom Cobb
Nancy Olson

MPO Director
MPO Senior Engineer and Planner
MPO Office Manager

Guests:

Margaret Austin
Scott Cowley
Darci Hendon

WTE
AVI p.c.
Summit Engineering

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Mayor Orr.

Introductions were made.

1) **Approval of the June 26, 2019 minutes.** Commissioner Ash moved to approve with one change. Mr. Morton seconded. Minutes approved.

2) **Budget Amendment to the FY `19 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)**

Mr. Mason referred to the Budget Revision #4 sheet with the UPWP amendments. He explained that the funding per line-items were shifted around to keep each line-item in the black based on the projected end-of-year expenses. One item of note was the Transit Software cost of \$10,000. This is charged every year, not just a one-time cost as originally thought, therefore the Software line-item was increased to \$20,050. Also, the PlanCheyenne Public Engagement \$26,000 budget was moved to the next year's budget. Ms. Ash moved to approve, and Mr. Morton seconded. Motion carried.

3) **Discussion and approval of the FY `20 UPWP**

Mr. Mason reported that the previously sent proposed budget described how the MPO is

programming funds for the next fiscal year. The estimated unencumbered funds turned out to be less than \$40,000. The annual budget is \$893,320. He said that the overhead was changed by \$5,500 to include the City's self-insurance starting next year and office rent went up a little. He went over each category and the funds allotted for them. New planning projects for next year will be, Walterscheid Ave. from College Dr. north to Deming; Avenue C, south of College Dr.; and E. Allison Road from SGH into the Niobrara Energy Park. Commissioner Ash asked if the MPO planning projects look at ground water issues. Mr. Morton said that storm water is considered with transportation projects at a 35% level so that when the project is built it won't increase run-off to adjacent properties. If the infrastructure is impacted by ground-water, then likely that would need to be considered as well. Ms. Ash stated that near Allison Draw the water table is very high and this consistently impacts residents in the area. Mr. Morton moves to approve the new budget, and Ms. Ash seconded. Motion approved.

4) Discussion and amendment to the FY `20 - `23 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Mason said that FTA reviewed the TIP and made recommendations that more detailed language and project description be added to the TIP. The revised TIP was presented and discussed. Ms. Ash moved to approve the amendment, and Mr. Morton seconded. Motion carried.

5) Presentation and approval of the Parsley Blvd. Corridor Plan

Mr. Mason told the committee that this plan has gone through both the city and county planning commissions for Public Hearing and both governing bodies have approved it. The Policy Committee approval is the last step. Scott Cowley reported that AVI p.c. was the principal on this project and Kimley-Horn was the sub and did traffic counts and projections. The study area was from Ames Ave. to College Drive and then south to Wallick Road. The key intersections are Ames, 4th, 3rd, Jefferson, Pinto and College Drive. This project was conducted since WYDOT will be moving forward with the I-80 bridge replacement in 2022. The bridge replacement is estimated to cost over \$4 million. The bridge will be wide enough to have Greenway only on the east side due to the many existing utilities and grade conditions at alleys that restrict how wide the new bridge can be. Now is a good time to look at the entire corridor and make sure it accommodates the area's expansion and growth. The estimate for improvements to the corridor is a little over \$7 million.

A three-lane section is recommended for safety with left-hand turns. At Ames the current configuration works well now and into the future, while a roundabout works slightly better at 2040. Two public meetings were held, and the proposed bicycle and pedestrian improvements were well received by the public.

The sections where individual property owners on the eastside of the road are accessing their back yards and garages directly from the Parsley right-of-way will be recommended to be separated from the road and the Greenway with a fence and curb and gravel the alley. There will be controlled locations along the corridor for this new alley to access Parsley. Between 4th and Pacific there will be a sidewalk on the west side because of the commercial activity in that location. The Greenway will continue all the way around Romero Park to the intersection with Ames. As per the 1988 storm sewer master plan, three 10' x 6' box culverts

under Parsley for Clear Creek crossing are proposed. At College, there will be more lighting, a left-turn lane and a center merge lane on College eastbound. Lastly, the future alignment south of College Drive to Wallick Rd. was shown with the road heading westward around the cell tower and Black Hills gas facility. The corridor continues south to Wallick Road. Land owners were contacted and are okay with that preliminary alignment.

Mr. Morton pointed out that WYDOT would want to eliminate the skew at College Dr. Mr. Cowley said that the 10% design was very conceptual at this time.

Mayor Orr asked for a motion for approval. Commissioner Ash made the motion, Mr. Morton seconded it. Motion passed.

6) **Presentation and approval of the Archer Trails Plan**

Ms. Darci Hendon from Summit Engineering gave the presentation. She said that given all the growth to the east and out at the Archer Complex, the MPO wanted to address non-motorized trail planning in this area. The plan specifically looks at connecting the Greenway that ends at Campstool and HR Ranch Road east to the Archer Complex. Currently, there is no funding in place to build this planning project.

She said, first, they needed to find out if the public was interested in a trail and how it would be used. The 2018 Laramie County Fair was the first opportunity to ask the public these questions. The citizens answered yes, they would like a trail and for all types of uses including equestrian.

Next, they looked at an alignment. The two main landowners are WYDOT Highway Commission, with their training facility, and the HR Land Company. The trail would follow the HR Ranch road on the south side and then head northward to and through the WAPA corridor and then east to Road J and Prairie Center Circle. There is a planned trailhead on the west side of that intersection. Another trailhead could be near the Campstool and HR Ranch Rd. intersection. The public was asked to provide input on this alignment at a public open house and with an on-line survey that was advertised through the MPO Facebook page and MPO website. The survey revealed that people were also interested in a trail on the north side of I-80; with the Christensen Road Overpass project building a Greenway along the entire length of the project and the LEADS GW Trail coming closer to reality, they wanted connectivity from said trails to Archer. Road cyclists said they were not interested in sharing a trail with equestrians and wanted a bike lane or wide shoulder on the north side of I-80. The recommendation for the south side of I-80 was a dual trail including a 10' concrete Greenway and a 3' soft surface trail that could be used for horses or mtn. bikes with a min. of 2ft. separation. The minimums are included because most of the trail will be on private property. Much of the area is hilly, so to meet ADA requirements for the Greenway, there are some areas of switchbacks. The soft surface trail will proceed straight uphill. The estimate for the dual trail is \$2.6 million including a bridge and a box culvert. There was also a fiscally constrained option with just a soft surface trail which would save about one million dollars.

Recommendations for the northside of I-80 were made including an additional GW path that connects both the LEADS and Christensen trails to the Archer Complex. Many things would

have to occur including bridge replacement on Archer Parkway because it doesn't have sidewalks or enough room for a bike lane. Also, to bring road cyclists on a hard surface shoulder/bike lane beginning from the intersection north on Campstool then under I-80 to Venture Dr. and then down the I-80 service road to Archer Parkway, then back south over I-80 to the Archer Complex. With this option, shoulders would need to be widened and bridges would need to be replaced and/or widened.

Mayor Orr asked for a motion for approval of the Archer Trails Plan. Commissioner Ash made the motion, Mr. Morton seconded it. Motion passed.

7) **Update on Planning Projects**

a) East Dell Range and U.S. Highway 30 Plan

Mr. Mason reported that the MPO has received the final draft and the intention is to go to the Oct. 10th County Planning Commission for a public hearing and recommendation to the Commissioners; and for the City, the Planning Commission public hearing will be on the third Monday in October for recommendation to the City Governing Body.

b) Whitney Road Plan

This Plan has about the same schedule, but Mr. Cobb is waiting for some data from the traffic engineer.

c) Municipal Complex Pedestrian Plan

Mr. Mason reported that this plan has been put on hold. The Civic Center is doing an analysis for their building to upgrade ADA and other modern improvements. When this is finished the MPO consultants will coordinate with the Civic Center team and finish the Plan.

d) PlanCheyenne Master Transportation Plan

Mr. Mason reported that the Public Engagement piece with West Edge Collective has been worked out and the new branding of the project will be worked out next. Data has been collected by the Consultant and they are working on the Travel Demand Forecast Model as the first big task. The first public meeting is scheduled for the evening of November 5th and first Steering Committee will be that day. On November 6th will be a series of stakeholder meetings as well.

Ms. Ash asked if the two versions of the Design Standards from the Community Plan would remain. Yes, they will; this effort is only the Long-Range Transportation Plan.

8) **Discussion on the Functional Classification Map**

Mr. Mason said that with the update of the PlanCheyenne Transportation plan there will be enough information gathered to look at the existing functional classification of roads in our urban area. An update to this map will happen at the end of PlanCheyenne, however there may be a small update soon by taking it through the process of consideration by the MPO Committees, Citizens and especially, the Technical Committee to make a change for a collector, Jackson, that should be a local street. It will be brought back to the Policy Committee for final approval, possibly in December. Juli Monahan brought the current Functional Classification Map that had a couple of changes from nine months ago that hasn't been signed. The committee will get it signed and returned to Ms. Monahan.

9) **Update on current and upcoming projects**

a) **City of Cheyenne**

Mr. Bay reported that Christensen Road bridge is progressing with girders up, with concrete substructure, and moving earth. It is a two-year project. Evers Blvd. is a two-year project and is complete up to Deer Ave. Prairie Ave. and Frontier Mall Dr. is out to bid with Feb. or March start of construction. Allison Rd. safety enhancement are out to bid with Jan./Feb. construction. Mountain Rd., Dell Range to Council Bluff will have a mill and overlay. 20th Street from Evans to O`Neil is being repaired with concrete milling and overlay with asphalt. There will be a thin lift overlay for Dell Range from College to the County Line. Reed Rail design is starting tomorrow.

Ms. Ash asked about the consideration for bike lanes on 20th. Mr. Mason said that the 2012 Bike Plan recommended two lanes with bike lane and parking on both 19th and 20th.

Ms. Gerrard said that her plan was to evaluate the bike lane option next year.

b) **Laramie County**

Mr. Bumann stated that Oil and Gas development is very robust with a lot of safety, dust, and road complaints. They are seeing one building permit a day. This is really taxing the SCWSD. Ms. Ash asked if the Commissioners have been invited to the discussion.

Mayor Orr said she would see to it. Looking at master agreement between BOPU and South side is the next step.

c) **WYDOT**

Mr. Morton the concrete slab repair for I-80 is winding down. Next year there will be I-25 bridge repairs at Missile Dr. and BNSF. WYDOT will be adding a high-performance wear course on I-25 from Randall to Vandehei. A flashing beacon on U.S. 30 at Whitney and Dell Range intersections is going in. Designing the future, I-25/I-80 interchange and the Parsley Bridge replacement. 2022 Overlay on Warren Ave. from Lincolnway to 24th St.

d) **Others**

Walt Satterfield with FHWA reported that with the fiscal year ending and the DOT has just approved the STIP/TIP, a corrective action had been issued to both MPO's as their LRTP has lapsed. No new projects can be added into the TIP until that is corrected. Ms. Ash was concerned that this was the reason the County lost CMAQ funding. Because the funding was for outside the MPO boundary, Mr. Satterfield did not understand why, and will check into that.

10) **Other Business**

The Mayor brought up that the F.E. Warren AFB has moved the main gate to Gate #2. The temporary lights at those intersections for CFD have gone away and folks have been concerned about the darkness and safety. WYDOT is in discussions with the FE Warren base commander as they have received a lot of calls as well.

Next meeting Thursday, December 19, 2019 at the Commissioner's Conference Room.